



Los Angeles County Certified Unified Program Agency Health Hazardous Materials Division



MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AEROSOL CANS

FACT SHEET 07-05-HW

July 2007

This fact sheet summarizes the regulatory requirements for the management of hazardous waste aerosol cans established by SB 1158, effective January 1, 2002. With the implementation of SB 1158, generators of hazardous waste aerosol cans have the option of managing the cans as hazardous waste or as universal waste. Under the universal waste rule, generators are allowed to process the cans by puncturing, draining, or crushing onsite under certain conditions. SB 1158 deleted from Health and Safety Code Section 25201.14, the authorization requirement from DTSC under the Conditionally Exempt-Limited Tier for onsite treatment of hazardous waste. In its place, HSC Section 25201.16 was added which made processing of hazardous waste aerosol cans a universal waste activity.

The aerosol can puncturing and draining provisions of SB 1158 do not apply to commercial universal waste handlers such as offsite hazardous waste facilities, hazardous waste transporters, or transfer facilities. Homeowners and small generators of non-empty aerosol cans are not allowed to dispose of the cans in the trash.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AEROSOL CANS

Aerosol cans are not hazardous waste when they have been emptied of contents, but non-empty aerosol cans may be hazardous wastes. Non-empty aerosol cans are commonly discarded when the spray mechanism is damaged or clogged and no longer working, the propellant has been exhausted, or the product is no longer needed.

A non-empty aerosol can is a hazardous waste if the propellant or product has any of the following characteristics:

- Ignitability (can readily catch fire)
- Corrosivity (acidic or alkaline)
- Reactivity (can explode)
- Toxicity (poisonous)

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS OF UNIVERSAL WASTE AEROSOL CANS

All handlers of universal waste aerosol cans must comply with the requirements of HSC Section 25201.16.

Notification Requirements:

Notify your local CUPA or authorized agency if you process universal waste cans or of any change in operation that changes the information originally provided. The notification can be given in person, or by letter, via certified mail, with return receipt requested.

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Containment Requirements:

- Accumulate and transport universal waste aerosol cans in containers that are structurally sound, compatible with the contents of the can, and show no evidence of leaks, spills, or damage that would cause leaks;
- Keep the accumulation containers closed, except when waste is being added or removed;
- Place accumulation containers in a location with sufficient ventilation;
- Place containers of processed cans and the unit used to process aerosol cans above a non-earthen floor that is free of cracks or gaps and is sufficiently impervious and bermed to contain leaks and spills;
- Keep containers of flammable waste a safe distance from heat and open flames;
- Place aerosol cans in containers that are designed, built, and maintained to withstand pressures reasonably expected during storage and transportation;
- Label containers of universal waste cans with one of the following phrases: "Universal Waste-Aerosol Cans," "Waste Aerosol Cans," or "Used Aerosol Cans,";
- Segregate incompatible materials in separate containers;
- Sort cans by type and compatibility of contents.

Handling Requirements:

- Manage the universal waste aerosol cans to prevent fire, explosion, and unauthorized releases to the environment;
- Develop and implement a written operating procedure for safely processing universal waste aerosol cans and handling emergencies;
- Provide a spill clean-up kit and promptly clean-up any spills or leaks of the contents of universal waste aerosol cans;
- Promptly transfer the contents of the drained aerosol cans from the processing device to appropriate containers that meet specified requirements;
- Process the universal waste cans in a well-ventilated area;
- Train employees on the procedure for sorting and processing aerosol cans and handling emergencies.

Residuals Management Requirement:

Any hazardous waste generated from processing the universal waste aerosol cans shall be managed in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 12 of Division 4.5 of Title 22 the California Code of Regulations.

NOTE: This fact sheet is a summary of the laws and regulations pertaining to this subject. It is intended for informational purposes only and may not encompass all the laws and regulations to this topic. More details may be found at Cal/EPA Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) www.dtsc.ca.gov. If further information is needed, call the County of Los Angeles CUPA at (323) 890-4045, or your local district office.

References

- California Health & Safety Code 25201.16